Levy on Dairy Industry

5651. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to impose a milk powder levy on the organised dairy industry in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the percentage of enhancement of liquid milk availability as a result of this step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Government has not taken any decision to impose a levy on milk powder. However, the need for making interventions such as restrictions on the production of milk products and imposition of levy on milk fat and skimmed milk powder in order to maintain or increase the supply of liquid milk is reviewed from time to time.

Decelerating trends in Capital Formation

5652. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to arrest the decelerating trends in capital formation in agriculture;

(b) whether resource allocation regime in the agriculture sector will be reviewed; and

(c) if so, by when and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) In order to arrest the decelerating trends in capital formation in agriculture, various steps have been taken by the Government. Some of the major steps taken in this regard include higher public sector outlays for agriculture & allied activities, focus on greater public sectror investments, substantial increase in farm credit, increase in minimum support price of agricultural commodities as also reduction in controls on domestic and foreign trade in agriculture, etc.

(b) and (c) The Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution (APR) formulated by the Government seeks to review resource allocation in the agriculture sector with a view to re-channelising available resources from current support measures towards capital formation and infrastructure building. It aims at creating a favourable economic climate for increasing farmers' own investments and efforts through a favourable price and trade regime.

Decline in the Share of Foodgrains

5653. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of foodgrains production in the total gross cropped areas has consistently declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the foodgrain production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The share of foodgrains in the total gross cropped area in the country has declined marginally over the years. This may be attributed to marginal diversion of area from coarse cereals to oilseeds and increase in foodgrains production through vertical expansion.

(c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programme namely Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Rice, Wheat and Coarse cereals; and National